

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A composition comprising at least one isolated yeast belonging to *Kluyveromyces marxianus* or *Kluyveromyces lactis*, wherein said composition contains an amount of said at least one yeast sufficient to reduce cholesterol when administered to a subject in need thereof.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The composition of Claim 1 which contains an amount of isolated *Kluyveromyces marxianus* sufficient to reduce cholesterol when administered to a subject in need thereof.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The composition of Claim 1, which is a food or drink.

Claim 4 (Withdrawn): A secondary bile acid production inhibitor containing a yeast as an active ingredient.

Claim 5 (Withdrawn): A secondary bile acid production inhibitor according to Claim 4, wherein the yeast is at least one species selected from among *Issatchenkia*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Hanseniaspora*, *Saccharomyces*, *Hyphopichia*, *Candida*, *Torulaspora*, *Pichia*, and *Zygosaccharomyces*.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn): A secondary bile acid production inhibitor according to Claim 4, wherein the yeast is at least one species selected from among *Issatchenkia orientalis*, *Kluyveromyces marxianus*, *Kluyveromyces lactis*, *Kluyveromyces thermotolerans*,

Hanseniaspora uvarum, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Saccharomyces dairensis*,
Saccharomyces exiguus, *Saccharomyces unisporus*, *Saccharomyces bayanus*, *Hyphopichia*
burtonii, *Candida kefyr*, *Candida etchellsii*, *Candida zeylanoides*, *Candida solani*, *Candida*
maltosa, *Candida tropicalis*, *Candida cylindracea*, *Candida utilis*, *Torulaspora delbrueckii*,
Pichia anomala, *Pichia holstii*, and *Zygosaccharomyces rouxii*.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn): A food and/or drink for inhibiting secondary bile acid
production containing a yeast as recited in Claim 4.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn): A method for producing the composition of Claim 1,
comprising:
admixing *Kluyveromyces marxianus* with a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle or
carrier.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): A method for producing the composition of Claim 1
comprising:
admixing *Kluyveromyces lactis* with a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle or carrier.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): A method for the production of the composition of Claim 1,
wherein said composition is a food and drink, comprising:
incorporating *Kluyveromyces marxianus* or *Kluyveromyces lactis* into a food or drink.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): A method for the production of a secondary bile acid
production inhibitor comprising admixing a yeast with a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle
or carrier.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 11, wherein the yeast is at least one species selected from among *Issatchenkia*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Hanseniaspora*, *Saccharomyces*, *Hyphopichia*, *Candida*, *Torulaspora*, *Pichia*, and *Zygosaccharomyces*.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 11, wherein the yeast is at least one species selected from among *Issatchenkia orientalis*, *Kluyveromyces marxianus*, *Kluyveromyces lactis*, *Kluyveromyces thermotolerans*, *Hanseniaspora uvarum*, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Saccharomyces dairensis*, *Saccharomyces exiguus*, *Saccharomyces unisporus*, *Saccharomyces bayanus*, *Hyphopichia burtonii*, *Candida kefyr*, *Candida etchellsii*, *Candida zeylanoides*, *Candida solani*, *Candida maltosa*, *Candida tropicalis*, *Candida cylindracea*, *Candida utilis*, *Torulaspora delbrueckii*, *Pichia anomala*, *Pichia holstii*, *Pachiticospora transverensis*, and *Zygosaccharomyces rouxii*.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): A method for the production of a food or drink for inhibiting secondary bile acid production, comprising incorporating a yeast as recited in Claim 11 into a food or drink.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): A treatment method for reducing cholesterol, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof the composition of Claim 1.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): A treatment method for reducing cholesterol, comprising administering the composition of Claim 2.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): A treatment method for inhibiting secondary bile acid production, comprising administration of a yeast.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn): A method according to Claim 17, wherein the yeast is at least one species selected from among *Issatchenkia*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Hanseniaspora*, *Saccharomyces*, *Hyphopichia*, *Candida*, *Torulaspora*, *Pichia*, and *Zygosaccharomyces*.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): A method according to Claim 17, wherein the yeast is at least one species selected from among *Issatchenkia orientalis*, *Kluyveromyces marxianus*, *Kluyveromyces lactis*, *Kluyveromyces thermotolerans*, *Hanseniaspora uvarum*, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Saccharomyces dairensis*, *Saccharomyces exiguus*, *Saccharomyces unisporus*, *Saccharomyces bayanus*, *Hyphopichia burtonii*, *Candida kefir*, *Candida etchellsii*, *Candida zeylanoides*, *Candida solani*, *Candida maltosa*, *Candida tropicalis*, *Candida cylindracea*, *Candida utilis*, *Torulaspora delbrueckii*, *Pichia anomala*, *Pichia holstii*, *Pachiticospora transverensis*, and *Zygosaccharomyces rouxii*.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The composition of Claim 1, which is a food or drink comprising *Kluyveromyces marxianus* and *Kluyveromyces lactis*.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 1, wherein said composition is a food or drink comprising an amount of *Kluyveromyces marxianus* or *Kluyveromyces lactis* sufficient to reduce cholesterol in a subject ingesting said food or drink.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 21, which comprises *Kluyveromyces marxianus*.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 21, which comprises *Kluyveromyces lactis*.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 21, wherein said *Kluyveromyces marxianus* or *Kluyveromyces lactis* are live cells.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 21, wherein said *Kluyveromyces marxianus* or *Kluyveromyces lactis* are heated cells.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 21, wherein said *Kluyveromyces marxianus* or *Kluyveromyces lactis* are in the form of a lyophilized product.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 21, wherein said *Kluyveromyces marxianus* or *Kluyveromyces lactis* are in the form of a milled product.

Claim 28 (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 15, wherein said yeast is *Kluyveromyces lactis*.

Claim 29 (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 15, wherein said *Kluyveromyces marxianus* or *Kluyveromyces lactis* are live cells.

Claim 30 (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 15, wherein said *Kluyveromyces marxianus* or *Kluyveromyces lactis* are heated cells.

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Claim 31 (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 15, wherein said *Kluyveromyces marxianus* or *Kluyveromyces lactis* are in the form of a lyophilized product.

Claim 32 (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 15, wherein said *Kluyveromyces marxianus* or *Kluyveromyces lactis* are in the form of a milled product.